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\$ \$ \$

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'90s**

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SPOKE

Vol 25, No. 37

Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario

January 10, 1994

Former DSA president considering move to Fanshawe marketing program

By Brad Hilderley

The former president of the college's Doon Student Association (DSA), who resigned Nov. 9, 1993, citing "personal reasons," said he might switch to Fanshawe College in London.

Ron Lehman said in a Dec. 16 telephone interview from London that he would be moving there.

"For some time, I have wished to settle in London, and my resignation from the DSA left that option wide open for me."

Lehman said he and other DSA executive members don't feel obligated to tell students the reasons, as they are personal, or to comment on stories circulating about the resignation.

"After I resigned from the student council, I didn't have as much reason to be in Kitchener anymore. I have personal interests in London," Lehman said.

He said he had not yet officially enrolled at Fanshawe and he probably wouldn't for January, as he had to get some money together.

"Due to financial constraints, there is no point in me applying

After I resigned from the student council, I didn't have as much reason to be in Kitchener anymore. I have personal interests in London.

— Ron Lehman



right now because I won't be able to afford to go until May or September."

Lehman said he had visited Fanshawe "for information gathering" and had "talked to someone involved in the marketing program."

"I probably would be going into their marketing course because that is where I use the skills I learned here in the business program."

Lehman said he would remain a student at Conestoga until the end of the fall semester, although he was unable to make it to all his second-year classes.

Conestoga registrar Betty Martin said she could not confirm Lehman's student status unless she had his consent, because she was bound by the Freedom of Informa-

tion and Protection of Privacy Act. Jack Fletcher, Conestoga's chair of student services, said he was not willing to discuss the change in the DSA presidency.

Fletcher said although he was willing to discuss other issues involving the student government, the presidential change was off limits.

Spoke learned of Lehman's plans to switch colleges from Rob Duke, a second-year general arts and science student at Conestoga.

Duke described himself as an "occasional acquaintance" of Lehman who had recently informed Duke of his plans.

"He told me he was going to Fanshawe," Duke said. "That was the last I saw of him."

Landscape skills course returns to Waterloo

By Robert Gray

The new year has brought with it another course at Conestoga's Waterloo campus. The landscape skills program will run for the second time, starting in January.

The full-time program ran last year for the first time. It's sponsored by Kitchener Waterloo Guelph Training Advisory Council. The council functions as a liaison between the federal government and the community. It offers training for both unemployed and employed people to upgrade their skills in the hi-tech work environment.

Liz Lawless, co-ordinator of the program, said it teaches people the skills they need to start in the landscape industry at an entry level. "It teaches people how to plant a tree, lay a patio, build a deck, prune, and recognize the various shrubs and trees that are commonly used."

The program runs for four

months, with 14 weeks of class and a two-week work term. "We're trying to get them finished in April because that's when the industries really busy," Lawless said. "It's a fairly short and intense program, but they have to get out there for April because that's when things are busy. Last year we ended two weeks later and we thought it was a bit too late, so we cut the work placement down to two weeks instead of four."

Besides the in-class work, the students can practice what they've learned in a warehouse where they plant shrubs, prune a tree, and build projects. In the last month they do a lot of practical work.

Many of the students got jobs from their placement, she added. Last year the course started with 20 students and 18 graduated. About 85 per cent got work in the landscape industry.

Plumbing program receives donation from Cambridge company

By Gary Wiebe

Conestoga College's efforts at soliciting donations from the private sector has paid off for the plumbing program.

Hans Zawada, chair of the technology, trades and apprenticeship program, accepted \$15,000 in equipment from Cambridge Brass officials at the Doon campus, Dec. 16.

The equipment, to be used as teaching aids, consists of the latest in high technology plumbing — electronically-controlled faucets and flush valves.

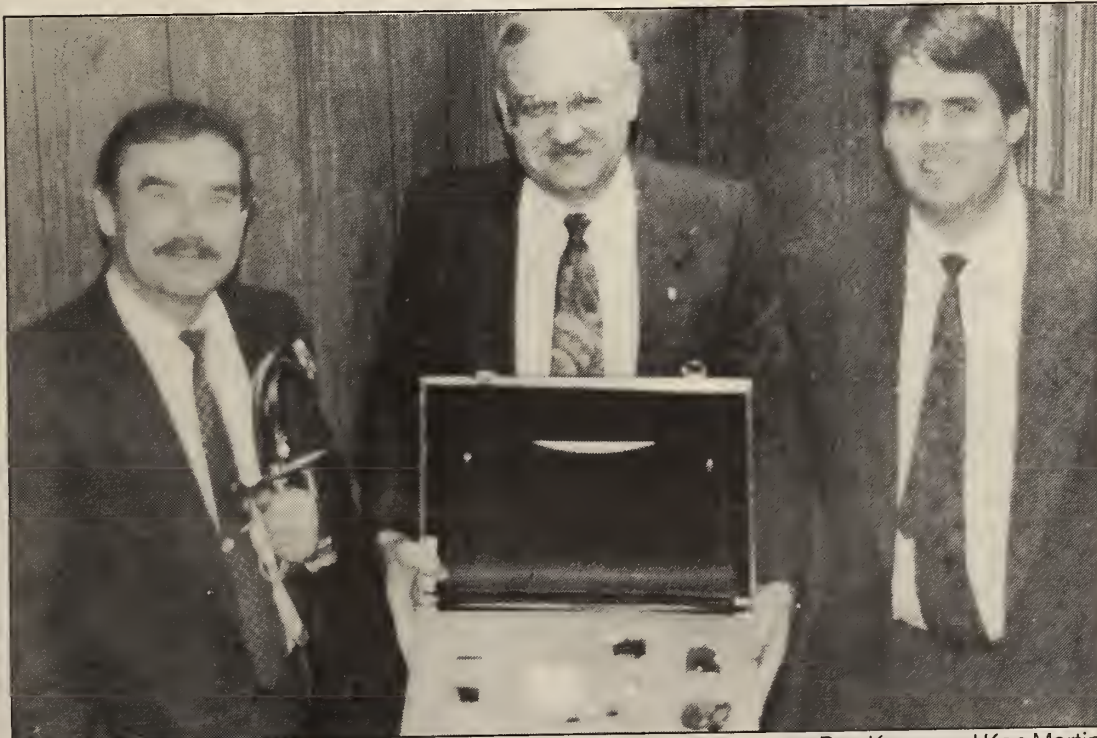
Ben Korec, product manager of the commercial and institutional division of Cambridge Brass, said the faucets have a built-in electric eye that shuts off the water flow when the user's hand is put in front of it.

"The system includes up to 15 different programs that can be used to adjust the length of time between when the water flow is stopped and when it starts again."

The water can be stopped for up to 16 seconds.

Korec said the sensor can be used in showers, water closets and urinals in commercial, institutional and laboratory settings.

Korec said he has seen a more widespread use of electronic bathroom fixtures including hand dry-



Chair of technology Hans Zawada (left) greets Cambridge Brass managers Ben Korec and Ken Martin.

(Photo by Gary Wiebe)

ers and even soap dispensers.

"More and more public washrooms, especially in airports, are using these types of products."

Korec attributes this increase to the rising spread of diseases such as AIDS. "These products are very

hygienic — you don't have to touch anything."

They were environmentally-friendly, he added, because they reduced the amount of water needed. "These products are ideal for those who are physically-chal-

lenged because there's nothing to grasp or manipulate."

When he previously visited Cambridge Brass to see what the company was offering Conestoga, Zawada said he was surprised and impressed. "I didn't know plumb-

ing is at that advanced stage nowadays, electronically. We look at high technology always at the technician/technology level — we don't look at the apprenticeship trades. And you can imagine what adding an electronic component does to the training of an apprentice."

Apprenticeship training in Europe has been successful for centuries but needs more emphasis in Canada, he said.

Ken Martin, product manager for the laboratory products division of Cambridge Brass, said the future looks good for plumbers and the industry. "I think there's a lot more optimism out there right now in the public sector to spend money."

Martin also expects Cambridge Brass will have an on-going close relationship with Conestoga's plumbing program.

"From our point of view, we would want to spend time with plumbing apprentices to train them," Martin said.

According to Zawada, Cambridge Brass has also given training sessions to college instructors about the latest plumbing technology.

"We hope to continue this excellent relationship with Cambridge Brass and to build on the co-operation that is already there," he said.

SPOKE

Editor: Omar Welke
Associate Editor: Jeff Brinkhof
Copy Editor: Julie Cooper
Production Manager: Jason Schneider
Advertising Manager: Laura Nahls
Circulation Manager: Colleen Connachan
Faculty Supervisors: Andrew Jankowski, Dick Scott

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Spoke, Conestoga College,
299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B15,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
Telephone: 748-5366

It's better to forgive than to blame

People seem to be angrier these days than ever before. And why not? Continuing high unemployment, massive debt, rising crime, violence and poverty all contribute to feelings of insecurity and doubt about the future.



By Gary
Wiebe

With the resulting potential loss of hope, anger creeps in. That is only natural.

And when people are angry, they usually look for scapegoats.

All too often we hear the cries of blame. We blame the government, unions, blacks, Jews, husbands, teachers, and scores of others. We blame everybody but ourselves.

We dish it out as a farmer spreads manure on fallow fields, the difference being the only crops blame will grow are resentment and hatred.

A friend once told me blame is the surest way to stay in a problem.

Blaming others for our problems causes us to lose a part of ourselves, a power that, if we learned to keep it and use it wisely, would allow us to live our lives with grace and dignity, regardless of the problems we are beset with.

Lives are lived under cause-and-effect conditions. What we give out, we get back. And to whatever degree we give it out, that is the degree we receive in return.

And it doesn't matter what situations we are dealing with — the law is a constant.

In connection with the laying of blame goes the assumption, rightly or wrongly, that somebody, somewhere, has done something wrong. The usual response to that is "He/she/you/they, etc., should have done this/that."

Should is a word that makes me shudder every time I hear it or see it written. I avoid it at all costs. It is one of the most damaging words in the English language, connoting as it does, the wrongness of someone's action, thus creating another opportunity to lay blame.

A better word to employ is could. Could, unlike should, implies a variety of choices exist to solve a problem and, if one doesn't work, that's OK because other options are available. Ergo, no blame.

As we look around, we see a world in upheaval — economically, politically, culturally and socially. All the so-called experts can't agree on what we face in the future.

At the present moment, things look discouraging and we feel powerless to do anything about it.

There is a key we can use to unlock the door to reclaim our power. It is forgiveness. We need to forgive and let go.

If, every time we were ready to lay blame we stopped ourselves and said instead, "I forgive you," perhaps then we would be able to live with grace and dignity.

For, as the world changes, so too must we.

OPINION



Dr. Zephyr does not like complainers

Heecccere's Dr. Zephyr! Good day folks.

I just flew in from Toronto, and boy are my arms tired.

Well, I can see that went over like a lead balloon. Let's get on with the reason I called you here today.

It seems that everywhere I go I hear people complaining about the system, the government, parents, their dogs, or whatever else comes to their minds.

Well, I'm getting tired of hearing all that whining and complaining. Sure, the world is a messed-up place. Situations like Bosnia-Herzegovina and South Africa should not be happening. People should not make money from the pain and suffering of others. Our environment is being destroyed around us. I agree that it's not the best of places to be in.

But it could be worse. And it is getting better.

Take a step back from your immediate situation for a minute. Forget about paying the bills and passing courses.

Now, take a look around you. Have the problems you've faced in your life gotten better or worse over the years? Have the problems the world faces gotten better or worse?

Today we have things like unions, police, govern-



By Robert
Gray

ments, agriculture, technology, and hot dogs. These advances have for the most part benefitted humanity. Considering how long we've had to get our collective act together, I'd say we're doing a pretty good job.

We've managed to virtually eliminate several diseases that have

been plaguing us for a long time. Lifespans have increased by several years. Industries are starting to get the idea that pouring toxic waste into a river might not be a smart idea. Things are slowly changing. For the most part the direction of change seems to a good one.

I'm not saying we should ignore the present state of affairs and let them continue. On the contrary, we should try to change what needs changing.

But change takes time. South Africa didn't win its independence from white rule overnight. I know it can be frustrating waiting for things to change. Sometimes it seems as if a snail could move faster.

But all you have to do is compare today's situations with problems faced 50 years ago. Sure, a lot of the root causes of those problems are still around, but we're getting closer to eliminating them every day.

So cheer up and stop complaining. Change what you can and accept what you cannot. And above all else, have fun!

Michael Jackson should be left alone

I'm really fed up with television's feeding frenzy on Michael Jackson.

I won't speculate whether I believe Jackson is guilty of molesting 13-year-old boys.

My beef is with the media. The media should leave him alone.

The public has been bombarded enough with newspaper and television reports about the elusive popstar.

I would not be as disturbed if I was reading the reports about Jackson in the tabloid press.

I understand the mentality of these tabloids.

The so-called news media is jumping on the bandwagon by providing the public with irrelevant information.

I admit I'm interested in the story, but I do not enjoy turning on the TV only to find that every station is reporting the same non-news on Jackson.



By Julie
Magee

I realize stations try to report what's going on, but this constant barrage on his private life is ridiculous.

Programs like A Current Affair, Inside Edition and Hardcopy (to name a few) are having a heyday reporting Jackson's every move.

They have literally staked out Jackson's ranch to find out who enters and leaves his private domain.

Please, give the guy some breathing room.

I will vomit if I turn on the TV and there is one more press conference being given by a former Jackson employee.

Of course, they're spouting off about how they supposedly saw him molest young boys.

Not only are former employees holding press conferences slamming the popstar, but his own sister has come onboard.

I found myself almost throwing the TV against the wall when LaToya Jackson held a press conference claiming she could not stand by her brother any longer. Later, the Jackson family held a press conference discrediting LaToya.

LaToya seems to enjoy holding press conferences slamming her family.

I recall the press conference she held proclaiming her father (Joe Jackson) molested she and her sisters.

In six months the media won't touch Jackson with a 10-foot pole and then they'll simply move on to another victim.

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef, or an opinion, please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space, and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed, and include your program and year for verification. Send letters to the Spoke office, Room 4B15, Doon campus.

Spoke, Conestoga College,
299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B15
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
Telephone: 748-5366

Student denies parking accusations

By Alan Horn

First-year marketing student Jason Stolper may have been the first person of the 1993-94 school year to have his car towed for a string of parking misdemeanors at Doon, but he says certain accusations directed at him by a campus security guard are false.

"I don't disagree with what they (security) did by ticketing me and towing me. That's their job, but their job isn't to talk to the newspaper (Spoke) and tell them a bunch of things that aren't true," Stolper said.

In the Dec. 13 issue of Spoke, Judy Ethridge said Stolper was spotted changing his licence plates in a Doon lot after receiving numerous parking tickets.

Stolper said the incident was a misunderstanding. He had a set of

personalized plates in the summer that were stolen and he had them re-ordered.

He received them in October 1993, but said they were installed at the Ministry of Transportation and not Doon campus. "Both plates were in my name, so I'm responsible for the tickets either way," he said.

If security in fact saw him changing plates, they should have called the police, he said, since putting on plates that aren't registered to your car is illegal.

On another matter, Ethridge said to her knowledge, Stolper had failed to pay his 17 parking tickets. "She wouldn't know if I paid for them or not, but I have paid for all of them — \$170," Stolper said, adding only a few tickets were paid late. The tab for the towing fee was also taken care of.

Stolper didn't, however, deny re-distributing a parking ticket, but said it was placed on a friend's car as a joke.

He speculated that a security officer saw him doing this and misconstrued his intention as an attempt to avoid paying the ticket.

But he said it was obvious that the ticket he placed on his friend's car was his, because his plate number and make of car were written on it.

Furthermore, "When you get a ticket it doesn't matter if you eat it or throw it away. You're still responsible for it," he said, admitting on occasion he has ripped up a ticket, only to find a new one in his mailbox at a later date.

Stolper said he has learned a lesson.

"Since I've been towed I've paid everyday. I definitely don't want to be towed again," he said.

Letter to the editor

Politicians and bureaucrats need overhaul

To the editor:

In response to Gary Wiebe's story, "Immigration and welfare need overhaul":

Recently there has been a wave of racism surging through Canada.

History shows that it is human nature to place blame on someone else (scapegoat) for our own shortcomings as a person or a society. Gary Wiebe's story is a prime example of this characteristic, which seems to have grown acceptance among Canadians. Anger which is misdirected from the source of the problem, politicians, to easy targets immigrants and refugees (since there is a difference between the two).

What scared me about Wiebe's article was his last paragraph which leaned towards violence as a possible solution for, "ordinary Canadian-

ans, worried about jobs and finances...." Define an "ordinary" Canadian in a country built by immigrants which range from a much more diverse scale than mentioned by Wiebe. Wiebe foreshadowed that Canada may resemble Germany's currently violent attitudes towards immigrants and refugees.

Wiebe, as well as most media, singled out the Aidid welfare scandal, but failed to distinguish between a refugee and an immigrant. Wiebe also failed to mention the many "ordinary" Canadians who abuse the Canadian Social Assistance Plan, which I believe needs to be thoroughly revised; not used as an excuse to vent anger over current economics upon visible scapegoats.

Wiebe should direct his frustra-

tions to the politicians who are the real cheats, "slavishly drool(ing) over prospects of free money."

I firmly believe that Canada isn't a "sucker nation" and therefore will see through the ignorance of racism which seems to perpetuate from attitudes found in Mr. Wiebe's article. Peace.

Steve Troy
First-year Journalism

Pssst . . .

Have a hot news tip or an idea for a story? Don't keep it to yourself. Let us know about it.

Spoke
Doon campus
Room 4B15
748-5366

Counsellor's Corner



By Pat Trudeau

New Year. New challenges. Now is the time when people resolve to make changes of great magnitude. How much change is realistic? With the days being so dark and the number of tasks so plentiful, I feel good when I manage to change the BRITA water filter and figure that from there I can work up to changing the world.

Like most people, actually, I am more motivated than that, so I will follow a plan which a friend devised. She considers the areas of having, being and doing and decides to make one change in each area. Here is how it works - she wants to have a new car, be better informed and do more reading. In 1994 she will listen to book tapes as she rolls along in her new Saturn.

Many students overwhelm themselves with lofty resolutions and feel disappointed when these plans are abandoned. Some goal setting is a "set up" for failure, especially when there are too many goals which are not believable, conceivable or measurable.

Start small - not so small that you are aiming up at the curb or so large that you are reaching for the sky. Set goals that are realistic and can be achieved in a given amount of time. Prioritize. Choose your three most important goals and assign them a ranking of A, B or C.

Many of your activities will then start to make sense in relation to your major goals. You will also have a personal guideline for what to let go. Particularly be aware of whether your choices are serving your own plans or someone else's. You may need to say "No" more often and delegate tasks in order to get on with your major work.

Come to think of it, perhaps my husband could change that BRITA water filter while I design that workshop for mature students and plan our summer vacation.

Pat Trudeau is a counsellor with Doon student services

OutSPOKEN

If you could change anything about Conestoga College, what would it be?



The parking and general tuition fees.
Kathleen-Anne Pleau
General business
First year

I'd put in a pub. A place where students could meet in a social setting that's not off campus.

Chris Arcand
Woodworking
First year



Bigger lockers.
Linda Degroot
Accounting
First year



The teachers could use more effective teaching tools such as video tapes.
Siroos Arabzadeh
Engineering
Second year



I wouldn't change anything.
Yukari Nakajima
General business
First year



The parking arrangements. They should be more organized at the beginning of the year.
Dave Clarke
Materials management
Second year



Heighten student awareness of the counselling supports available.
Kelly Nixon
Special needs counsellor

Right now everything is okay, except for the parking rates of \$2.25. But the staff is very nice. They're friendly.
Alexander Martinez
Civil engineering
Second year



By Alan Horn

Conestoga hosting seminars on conflicts

By Colleen Connachan

Internationally-known speaker Robert Hall will deliver a lecture and presentation on sex, conflict and intimacy at Doon campus on Jan. 20.

Hall, invited by Conestoga's Date Rape Awareness Committee, will spend a full day delivering three seminars focusing on issues

surrounding conflict resolution.

"The same basic principles will apply in all three seminars except it is directed to different audiences in different settings," said committee chair Jack Fletcher.

The first seminar, Hands Off, Let's Talk, will be held as a nooner in the blue cafeteria. This will present a combination of topics related to conflict resolution.

The second seminar will invite people in student leadership roles to attend a lecture in 2A56 at 2 p.m. This seminar will explore how to interact with others while in a leadership role. The third seminar, Conflict Resolution in the Classroom, follows at 3:30 p.m. in 2A56. This seminar is geared to staff and faculty members.

Hall, founder and president of a Geneseo, N.Y.-based business called Learning To Live With Conflict, provides lectures and information dealing with conflict resulting from misunderstandings. A certified mediator, Hall travels to universities and colleges across the United States and Canada.

According to Fletcher, the seminars were funded as part of a one-shot deal from the Ministry of Education to combat the topic of sexual harassment. Overall, Conestoga College received \$6,134 from the ministry for guest speakers, posters, advertisements and the college's sexual harassment pamphlet.

Fletcher said the awareness campaigns help but they are not the answer or the solution to changing long-standing social patterns.

"Ultimately the only way you're really going to get any changes in this area is through education."

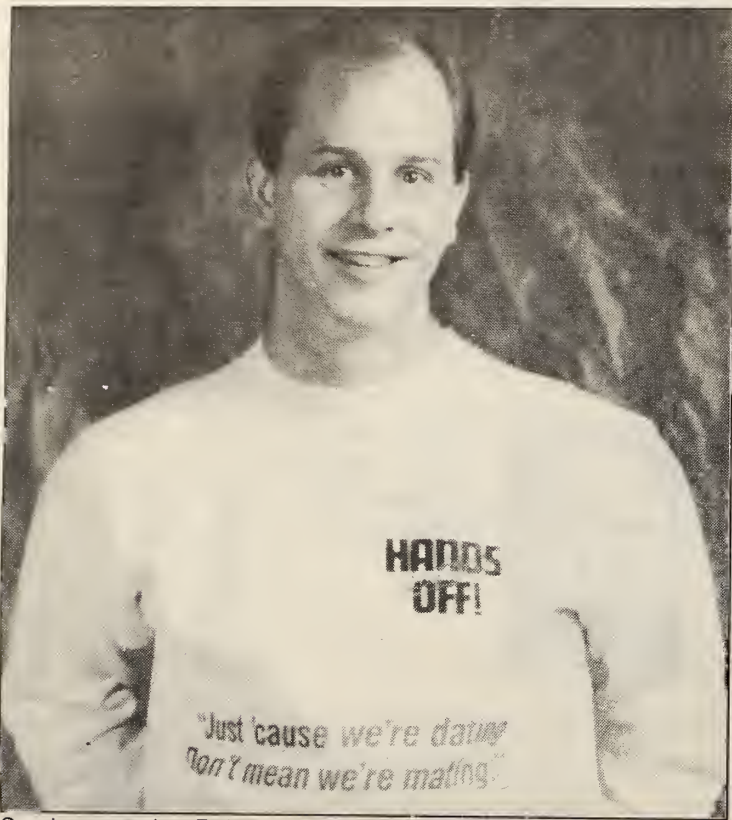
This type of education needs to start where it becomes appropriate. "As soon as you start talking about any kind of relationship between people, you should start building the idea of respect amongst men and women, boys and girls, and person to person," Fletcher said.

Committee member Jenn Davies said the committee stumbled over Hall's impressive portfolio back in the fall. She said he has received outstanding reviews from various colleges and universities in the past.

"He does a very good job of being able to raise the awareness issues in a less interrogating and intimidating way," Davies said.

Davies said the committee would be pleased if the seminars attracted a lot of people, but the main purpose is to get the message across even if it's only five people.

Fletcher added, "The outcome of the seminars for students, staff and faculty is not only for immediate reaction at the time, but for it to be useful if one is in a situation in later time."



Seminar speaker Robert Hall models a Hands Off! sweatshirt.

(Photo courtesy Jenn Davies)



Jack Fletcher gives a thumbs-up to news of a conflict-resolution seminar while Jenn Davies points to news release of the event.

(Photo by Colleen Connachan)

RODEWAY SUITES

Conestoga



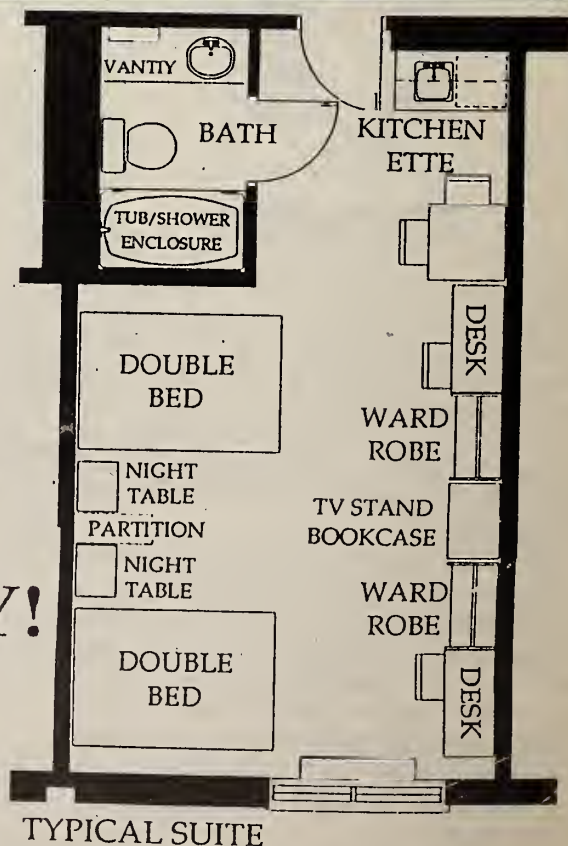
FACILITIES

- Furnished suite* including TV.
- Semi-divided for privacy.
- 4 piece bath with tub & shower.
- Kitchenette with microwave & fridge.
- Limited housekeeping provided.
- Controlled access building.
- Video monitored common areas.
- On site management.
- Laundry facilities on site.
- Furnished lounge**, study room & social areas.
- Air conditioning/heating individually controlled.
- Elevator.
- Public transportation steps away.
- Bike & long term storage provided.
- Vending machines/photocopy service on site.

*you supply linens, cutlery and small appliances (toaster, kettle, etc.)
**main lounge includes large screen TV, pool table and video games.

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RODEWAY SUITES



TYPICAL SUITE

Books are a major expense for students

By Colleen Connachan

As the winter semester starts at Conestoga College, students are compelled to pull out their pocket books and face the harsh reality that education is not cheap.

However, according to first-year nursing students Cathy Everson and Sandra Clark, and third-year accounting student Jason Rolson, they were prepared to pay their dues, which included setting aside money for books.

Everson said she was not overly suprised when she used most of the \$350 she set aside for her required books. Nevertheless, she said the books for her program are well-

worth buying because of the quality. "In general, I think they are all overpriced, but they are top notch books," Everson said.

She said one problem with purchasing an expensive, but quality book is that some teachers will not use it from cover to cover.

One way to ease the burden of buying costly books, she said, would be for the teacher to combine a folder-type text to follow with information from various books and notes.

Clark said that in planning her budget, she knew exactly what was needed. One book Clark said she did not mind paying \$87 for was Medical Surgical Nursing. She

knew it would get years of use.

As for the rest of the supplies in the bookstore, Clark said they are too expensive. "You can get binders and paper elsewhere that are cheaper. The clothing is too expensive. You pay for the Conestoga label."

But although the bookstore attracts more than 275 customers a day, it isn't making a profit on books.

According to retail operator Dan Randall, the bookstore purchases the book supplies at cost from the publishers.

From there, he said a shipment is received along with a list of prices. The books are priced without a mark-up and with only an amount to cover shipping and handling.

According to Don Bettger, director of sales for Prentice-Hall Publishers, Doon campus remains mark-up free, even though bookstores are able to set a desired mark-up price.

Prentice-Hall is one of five suppliers for the bookstore at Doon campus.

Bettger said he recognizes the bookstore as extremely well run.

He said most bookstores can have mark-up prices ranging from 1.2 per cent to 1.37 per cent.

Rolson said the most frustrating thing about buying books for his program is how quickly an edition becomes outdated and loses its resale value.

But, he said all the texts he uses are worth buying because the instructors use them thoroughly.

Rolson said he cannot believe the bookstore doesn't make a profit. "They say they are not making a profit on books, but they sure make it on all the other stuff," he said. "When they want to charge \$4 for a binder, I'll go somewhere else."



Dan Randall, retail operator of the bookstore at Doon campus, prices books in preparation for the winter semester rush.

(Photo by Colleen Connachan)

Incredible Rental Incentives!

Two or three bedroom town homes close to college, with large rec room, appliances and one and a half baths.
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Did You Know?

Sex in dating relationships is one of the most common sources of conflict between men and women on college campuses today.

Hands Off - Let's Talk

A Lecture on Sex and Dating with Bob Hall

Thursday, Jan. 20
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Blue Room Cafeteria
Free Admission

Hockey Players Wanted

- * Hockey players are needed for a contact ice hockey league
- * Games to be played Tuesdays and Wednesdays

4:30 and 5:30 p.m. start times

Interested players will be placed on teams already established

If interested, please contact Doug Watson at the Conesotga College Recreation Centre

Call extension 484

or see intramurals staff at the main cafeteria Jan. 3 - 10 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Play resumes Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1994



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RECREATION

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TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS' HOCKEY POOL

- Instructions: 1. Circle the team that you think will win.
2. For the last game please indicate what you think the total points scored will be. This will be used in the event of a tie.
3. Hockey pools must be handed in by Monday, Jan. 17, 1994 before 12 p.m.
4. The overall winner will receive two tickets to the Toronto Maple Leafs vs. St. Louis Blues game, Monday, March 7.
5. Must be a full-time student of Conestoga College to qualify to win. DSA executive are not eligible.

DATE

Tues., Jan. 18
Wed., Jan. 19
Wed., Jan. 26
Sat., Jan. 29
Tues., Feb. 1
Sat., Feb. 5
Mon., Feb. 7
Fri., Feb. 11
Sat., Feb. 12
Tues., Feb. 15
Thurs., Feb. 17
Sat., Feb. 19
Mon., Feb. 21

HOME

Toronto
Hartford
Toronto
Toronto
St. Louis
Toronto
Toronto
Winnipeg
Calgary
Toronto
Toronto
Toronto
Los Angeles

VISITOR

Anaheim
Toronto
New York Islanders
Pittsburgh
Toronto
Detroit
Tampa Bay
Toronto
Toronto
Detroit
New Jersey
Edmonton
Toronto

TOTAL Goals L.A. vs. Tor. = _____

NAME: _____

PROGRAM: _____

PHONE #: _____



The following programs are being offered by the Kitchener Public Library;

Financial Planning for Singles

Joan Gross discusses how to establish and maintain a basic budget, invest for your future, protect your estate and build money management into your lifestyle.

* Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 7:15 p.m.
KPL, Stanley Park Branch
146 Trafalgar Avenue, Kitchener
Register - 896-1736

Ideas and Issues:

Memory and How It Works

Dr. Bill Hockley, Wilfrid Laurier University Department of Psychology

* Monday, Jan. 17 at 12:00 p.m.
KPL Main Branch
85 Queen St. N.
No registration required

Home-Based Business

Chuck Rush, Business Advisor Trainer, CODA, discusses start-up, marketing and advertising

* Monday Jan. 17 at 7:15 p.m.
KPL, Pioneer Park
150 Pioneer Drive
Register - 748-2740

Faculty nominate peers for award

By Omar Welke

To be recognized by your peers as an outstanding faculty member is what makes the Aubrey Hagar Award so valuable, said Norman Socha, last year's recipient.

Socha, an electrical apprenticeship and electro-mechanical maintenance (EMM) instructor at Doon's Detweiler Centre, said he was surprised by the significance the award has in the academic world and the community.

The \$800 award is presented every year at convocation to the faculty member who has made an outstanding contribution and shown leadership in the teaching and learning process.

It was first awarded in 1988 and named after a Conestoga College administrator who occupied a number of upper management positions at the college for 17 years starting in 1968, said Dave Jackson, manager of professional development.

The main difference between this award and others given for teaching excellence in Ontario is that the winners are chosen by faculty, for faculty, Jackson said.

Peer selection means "it's not an administration or student or popularity thing," Socha said. This gives

the award validity and credibility. "Credibility seems to be a rare commodity these days," he added.

Jackson said nomination forms for this year's award were available from Aubrey Hagar selection committee representatives as of Jan. 3. He encouraged faculty who want to

"The pressure to increase class size and streamline the teaching process, means teachers will just have to become innovative."

— Dave Jackson

nominate a peer for the award to forward nominations before the Jan. 31 deadline.

The winner of the award will be decided by a selection committee also comprised of faculty and staff, Jackson said.

A number of criteria are looked at by the committee when the selection process begins, he said.

Items include recognition within the discipline, integrity and learning design.

Although Jackson believes there is more than one criteria to teaching

excellence, he said innovation and creativity (one of the selection categories) is a key one right now.

"All the funding pressure we've got, as well as the pressure to increase class size and streamline the teaching process, means teachers will just have to become innovative."

He added that innovation is needed to continue to get a quality product out to the students with a reduced cost.

Besides the recognition by peers, and the \$800 professional development fund, recipients also get a plaque of commendation and a custom designed liri pipe.

Socha said he used the fund to defray the cost of a doctoral program he is in at Nova University in Florida. Others have used their money to attend conferences or seminars to further their ability as instructors.

An input form for students and staff is available in this issue of Spoke.

This form, Jackson said, is to get some sort of feedback from students as to which teacher they believe deserves the award. He stressed that the form is not a nomination form and that nominations are only accepted from faculty.

The Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teaching Award

Student/Support Staff Input

The chosen faculty member will have exhibited innovative and competent teaching methods, sensitivity to student needs, integrity, professionalism and fair assessment. The faculty member will be highly regarded for excellent planning, organization, communication and conflict resolution skills.

Who do you feel deserves this award and why?

Comments: _____

Faculty Member's Name: _____ Program: _____

(Student/Support Staff Signature) _____ Program/Department _____

Please Note: Signature is required for this information to be valid.

Please forward your recommendations to your student representative or Rita Campigotto, Human Resources, Employee Services Building, by Jan. 17, 1994.

Entertainment
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\$14 after Jan. 14

\$17 at the Door

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For this licensed event, proper identification is required!

Transportation provided
from the residence

Ticket information available
at the DSA activities office

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and
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Perspective

Student Finances

Money woes end scholastic career

By Brad Hilderley

No matter how bad a person's problems are, there is always someone worse off, says a Conestoga College student who planned to quit school due to financial troubles.

Ziggy Schell, a third-year student in the business administration — materials management program, said that he kept this philosophy in mind recently when he found an envelope containing \$390 near his Cambridge home.

"My goodness! Money from heaven," Schell thought after the discovery.

But Schell decided to return the money to its owner, even though he is experiencing problems paying his own bills.

When he contacted a company whose name appeared on a cheque inside the envelope he learned that the money had been lost by a man going through hard financial times.

One thing Schell hasn't found, however, is a solution to his own financial dilemma. He is a mature student who described himself as being in his 40s.

"I've looked at all avenues, and they all come back to the same thing — you've got to face reality."

Reality, according to Schell,

means quitting school to get a job. "There is no way of coping with it, unless I go out and get a full-time job."

Schell said he's two months behind in paying his bills.

"You can quit making money, but you can't quit paying bills," he said. "It's either full-time work or

"Without funds to pay your bills, what good is education?"

— Ziggy Schell, a financially strapped student

full-time study. I can't do both."

Part-time employment was considered, but Schell said he "couldn't make enough money to pay the bills."

It's not tuition that Schell is worried about. In September the Workers' Compensation Board paid his full year of tuition.

Being able to pay his everyday expenses was the problem. November was the last month in which he received workers' compensation, awarded because of a back injury.

"Without funds to pay your bills, what good is education?"

He said being behind in bill payments "is a little bit hard on the

nerves."

Schell said it would be "impossible" to attend Conestoga during the winter semester.

"I have to spend full time looking for a job. I don't want to lose my house. I worked too hard for it."

Schell also said his family depends on him. The single father of three still has one son living at home and his mother, 87, lives with him and needs care.

Unemployment insurance was not possible, he said, because he had been on workers' compensation.

His application to the Ontario student assistance program, he said, had not generated any response yet.

Schell said he was forced to go on welfare, which paid him \$1,100 a month.

"I've had to accept it so far, but welfare is very demeaning ... it just covers the mortgage and nothing else."

The student said he looked into finishing his program through part-time studies, but was told that was not allowed.

Teachers in his program are burdened with heavy work loads, he said, so it was not possible to work out a special arrangement with them so he could finish his diploma.



Ziggy Schell, a third-year materials management student, leaves Doon campus' main building on his way home Dec. 17.
(Photo by Brad Hilderley)

20 Money-saving Tips

- 1) Create a budget.
- 2) Use the telephone before shopping. You can save time, gasoline and money.
- 3) Comparison shop.
- 4) Be aware the cheapest product is not always the least expensive over the long run.
- 5) Keep receipts.
- 6) Complain, if you don't get your money's worth.
- 7) Use coupons.
- 8) Cook for yourself.
- 9) Plan your wardrobe in advance.
- 10) Conserve energy.
- 11) Keep your housing costs reasonable.
- 12) Avoid credit. Pay cash.
- 13) Fix things yourself.
- 14) Notice what you spend on "fun."
- 15) Use public transportation or car pools.
- 16) Postpone purchases.
- 17) Shop on a full stomach to curb impulse buying.
- 18) Avoid snacks.
- 19) Don't take more money out of the bank than you actually need.
- 20) Take good care of big ticket items such as cars and appliances.

Source: *Becoming a Master Student*, College Survival Inc., 1991.

More students seek budgeting help

By Jeff Brinkhof

Despite economists' contentions that the Canadian economy is on the upturn, many students are still finding it difficult to make ends meet. Many of these students turn to student services to help manage their budgetary woes.

Joan Magazine, a counsellor at Conestoga College's Doon campus, said the number of students seeking help has increased.

"Starting last year, we've found many more students are coming by for counselling on financial issues."

The aid student services can provide is to help students closely examine their budgets.

Magazine said the first thing they do is check with students to see where their money is coming from, whether it's family or a job, and if they can make it to April.

It's also important to ensure the student has explored all the possibilities for raising money, she said.

"A lot of students hesitate to ask for family help, wanting to do it on their own, or assuming their parents have enough headaches."

She said she understands this option has become more difficult because of the economy, and she noted other resources available to students.

"Sometimes scholarships are available," she said. "A parent's company or union might have educational funds that people don't consider."

Counsellors, she said, also explore whether students are working, how many hours they can afford to work in terms of school or afford not to work in terms of survival.

With this Magazine offered a word of caution, "If you're working to stay in school and by working you sabotage your success, then it doesn't make much sense."

After they've explored all income options, she said she examines the student's expenses. Are there cheaper living accommodations available? Can the student take in an extra person and cut expenses?

She then examines the money going out of students' budgets and she said the revelations can sometimes be amazing.

Magazine taught an elective called Strategies for Student Success last semester and one of the mid-term assignments was for students to monitor their budgets for a month.

"It was a very revealing experience," she said. "Anybody who did it said 'Wow! That was really valuable to look and see where my money goes.'"

Most students, she said, saw lots of small ways to trim their budgets and some even talked about putting money in the bank for the future.

The two major areas students found ripe for trimming, Magazine said, were food and entertainment.

"A lot of people were eating out, either here or at restaurants, and they realized that if they got up a little earlier or stayed up a little later the night before, they could fix a lunch and save a lot of money."

Cutting down on cigarettes and beer was another area for reducing expenses, Magazine said.

"Students recognized that if they went out at night and they only had a limited amount of money in their pockets, they wouldn't go crazy," she said.

For students in truly dire financial need there is a foodbank at the college and several agencies in the community that might be able to help, she said.

"If it's a matter of someone getting through a week or two on groceries until the next paycheck comes in, then they can get help."

Magazine said if students are having problems, they shouldn't sit on them, they should visit student services and talk to a counsellor.

Free Fun

Exercise
Visit a pet store
Join intramural sports
Listen to music
Window shop
Learn to juggle
Look at old pictures
Call a friend (not long distance)
Take a walk
Test drive new cars

Chair of Conestoga's applied arts an eclectic traveller

By Wladimir Schweigert

If there were stables at Conestoga College, Fred Harris, the chair of applied arts, would be working with a shovel. But because there are no horses here, Harris' job description is to be taken metaphorically.

Harris confided what one colleague recently said to him: "Don't worry Fred, they'll never get rid of us. Who else is going to shovel the manure?"

But Harris works with his mind. When he speaks, his brain slices ideas effortlessly, making obtuse concepts as distinct and real as cold cuts on a bun.

After graduating from high school in Montreal, Harris attended the University of British Columbia. Following eight years in Western Canada, he came back to Montreal in 1966 and took a job in the registrar's office of Jesuit-run Loyola College.

He was the first non-Roman-Catholic they hired. It was quite an event, Harris said, because he had to convince school officials he could convey, despite his Protestant upbringing, the Catholic view in liberal arts education.

In 1966 he wrote the civil service examination and went to Ottawa to work as a researcher with the Privy Council Office.

Through 1970, Harris spent a year travelling through Mexico and South America where he visited Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. The train ride from Peru to Bolivia was a horrendous experience, Harris said.

The train still sported a brass plaque which read: "Made in Sheffield, England, 1897." Flower pots

replaced old kerosene lamps and the toilet was a hole in the cement floor. Smugglers were bartering with border guards. "A classic picture of a South American banana republic," Harris said.

Because a letter requesting funds from his brother in London, Ont., ended up in London, England, he and his wife had to survive in Buenos Aires for days on only bananas and milk. But until the letter finally arrived and money was forwarded, Harris earned cash by teaching English at Berlitz (a language school in Argentina). A British sailor on a visit to Buenos Aires, helped out by lending some "pesos" to a fellow subject of the Queen.

Returning to Montreal, Harris became part of the administration at Dawson College, a position he held for 18 years. But in 1991 he sought change and moved to Conestoga. Here, he said, he does a balancing act, looking for common ground between administration and faculty.

Patience and a thick skin are requirements of his job, Harris said. "I'm a good listener. I try to solve problems and I try to understand both sides."

At 51, Harris has experience as well as memories. His mind races, as he reminisces, giving his tongue just enough time to catch up.

His earliest recollection is from the mid '40s when he was four or five years old. The Montreal of his childhood left the snow pile up on the streets and sidewalks. Coming home from a visit to his grandparents, Harris remembers falling off a sled pulled by his mother. He still pictures it receding in the distance. "At some point, I presume, either I

begun to bellow or somebody turned around and realized little Fred had fallen off."

Harris' maternal grandparents arrived in Canada after the First World War. His great-grandfather, on his father's side, came to Halifax as a drummer boy with the last British battalion stationed there. His great-grandmother came from France via Louisiana and ended up in a logging camp on the Quebec side of the Ottawa Valley.

Harris remembers his paternal grandmother as "a tough old lady," and it was this lady that made Harris' decision of church affiliation long before he was born. As Catholics, his grandparents had to contend with the parish priest who made regular rounds to collect the tithe.

On one such occasion, during an especially hard time, Harris' grandmother thought this was absolutely ridiculous — that while her children were going hungry, she gave this money to the priest. So she threw the priest out of the house. That evening, at the supper table his grandmother announced to the family they'd all become Protestants.

That's why Harris grew up an Anglican, "the closest you can come to the Roman Catholic rite outside the Catholic church."

With such resolute ancestors and a diverse background, Harris became an eclectic. When he is not writing in longhand on papers in his office or walking that "tight path," helping feuding parties at Conestoga agree, he relaxes with a book of mystery or science fiction snatched from his 15-year-old son's bookshelves. He also listens



Fred Harris, Chair of applied arts, finds his work rewarding.

(Photo by Wladimir Schweigert)

to classical music and a bit of jazz.

The Globe and Mail helps him through the weekends, and occasionally, the New York Times. Articles from the Atlantic Monthly, Harper's or Time magazine also hold his interest.

Harris has spent the greater of his life working with people, often negotiating problems between oppos-

ing parties. He said he's an introvert, but it all gets to him some times. "There is a part of me, when I wish people would go away."

Harris said he would like to be remembered for having helped people wind their way through the complexities of life. His purpose in life is to leave the world a little better, he said.

OVERCOMING PUBLIC SPEAKING ANXIETY



Most people feel anxious before making a speech or presentation. Some people however, feel immobilized by the thought of making a speech.

DO YOU DO THE FOLLOWING?

- 1) avoid doing speeches at all cost
- 2) accept a "0" in the public speaking part of a course rather than make the speech
- 3) risk failure in a course by not doing the speech
- 4) select your program/course/assignments because you hope you will be "safe" from having to make a speech
- 5) feel extreme anxiety just thinking about making a speech

If you are prepared to conquer this anxiety in a supportive atmosphere, you are invited to join the "Overcoming Public Speaking Anxiety" group.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- 1) to identify your self-defeating thoughts and alter them
- 2) relaxation and anxiety reduction techniques
- 3) to prepare and deliver presentations
- 4) practise mini oral presentations with increasing levels of risk (your own pace!)

HOW TO JOIN

Come to Student Services (2B12) to set up an individual appointment with Carol (January 3 - 20). Bring your timetable. The group will run for four, two-hour sessions beginning at the end of January. A commitment to all four sessions is important. Space is limited.

YOU CAN CONQUER YOUR ANXIETY!

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Frederick Brunswick Lanes
behind Frederick Street Mall

\$7.00

includes shoe rental

Tickets available at the DSA Activities Office

Don't miss your chance to win two Buffalo Sabres tickets



Tough times hurt everyone, Conestoga College counsellor says

By Winston Endall

Conestoga students are facing increased pressures, both financial and emotional, because of the recession.

Bob King, a counsellor in the college's student services department, said students are not the only ones suffering.

"The recession has affected everyone to some extent. First, it has

created a certain element of insecurity, and second, the amount of money people make has become less."

King said that students directly out of high school are feeling the

pinch because their parents can't afford to help them out as much financially. He said this can create bad feelings.

According to Statistics Canada, there has been a 2.2 per cent de-

crease in family income between 1980 and 1990, but taxes have continued to rise.

In 1980, the average income tax per family was \$7,684, but by 1990 it was up to \$10,199.

Life in the 90s: living on the edge

Semester-two supplement

Recession of the 1980s repeats itself, or at least comes close

By Blake Patterson

Ten years ago, serial killer Clifford Olson had just been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Ten years ago, Bob Rae had just ridden an election wave of enthusiastic hope to the leadership of the New Democratic Party in Ontario.

Ten years ago, the Canadian deficit was rising at a record rate, and 10 years ago the Canadian government was arguing over a very imperfect constitution.

Unemployment stood at 8.6 per cent of the workforce 10 years ago, and people were rushing back to school to learn the technical skills needed to compete for increasingly scarce jobs.

Sound familiar? Well it should. Canada was in a recession in 1983.

The 1990s recession supports the adage that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Ten years after the height of the last recession, Canada and Canadian students are revisiting pages of history, and Harry Chapin's *All My Life's a Circle* is somehow starting to make sense.

Bob King, a counsellor at Conestoga College's Doon campus and

a 28-year veteran of the community college system, said students today are more conscious of the need to retrain. In 1983, students began to realize that they would have to keep up with a world that is constantly

Great Depression of the 1930s. Newman's editorials said the 1983 recession irrevocably altered "the financial geography of the country," and he added that the plummeting economy had moved

they were then. An article by Catherine Harris in the October 1982 issue of the *Financial Post* was headlined, *Classrooms Fill Up Fast as Job Prospects Fade*.

Harris said students consider

place technology than the recession.

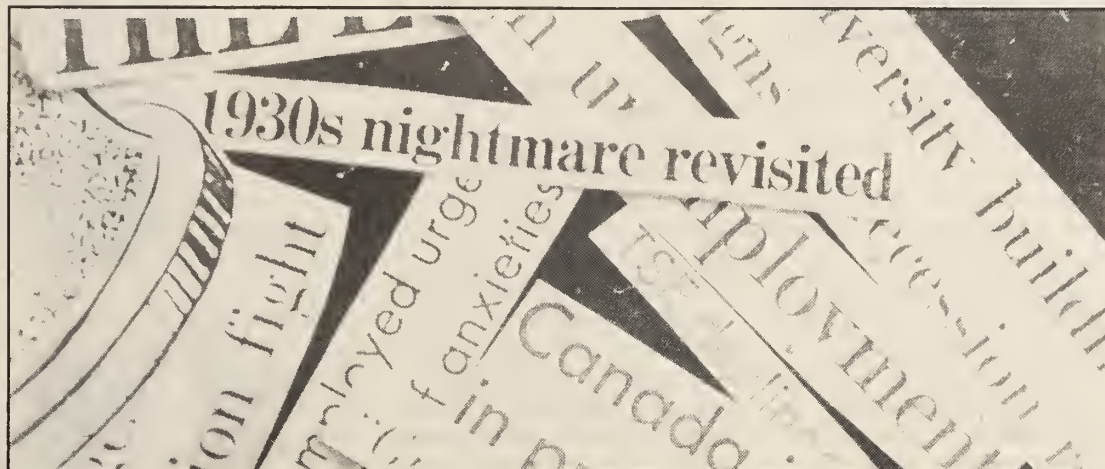
"Even when I started work 28 years ago we were told that we could expect to change careers and retrain at least twice; today it would probably be three times."

With 570,000 unemployed Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 in 1982, the enrolment at Ontario colleges of applied arts and technology jumped sharply from a consistent level of 70,000 to nearly 95,000.

Statistics Canada noted that increased enrolment resulted from interest in technological programs.

This increase was not balanced by any increased government funding. In fact, the Trudeau government's policy of "new federalism" forced the provinces to be more self-sufficient by cutting \$11 billion in provincial transfer payments previously used to fund hospitals, medicare, and post-secondary education.

Whether "new federalism" and the "social contract" are the same under the sheep's clothing is hard to see, but it's easy to see what Chapin meant when he said, "Wheels just keep turnin' round and round."



(Photo by Blake Patterson)

changing, said King.

"Retraining and changing careers is a greater reality today than ever before."

Peter C. Newman, then the editor of *Maclean's* magazine, called the early '80s "days of wine and vinegar."

Although Canada had suffered through five recessions since the

beyond the solutions traditionally advocated by economists.

"Citizens raised in boom times," said Newman, "cannot deal with vanished financial security and the death of personal dreams."

The frantic search for financial security and personal dreams was reflected in period news articles which are as applicable today as

education to be more attractive than unemployment, but she warned that education standards suffer due to "double-whammy" of recession-driven funding restraints and rising enrolments.

King said the college system has more mature students today than in 1983, but he added that the increase is more a factor of increased work-

College copes by expanding

By Jennie Richardson

While other institutions have been downscaling because of the recession, Conestoga College has been expanding during the past four years.

Conestoga College has been accepting more students, adding new programs and relocating existing programs.

David Courtemanche, a college planner, said applications and enrolments have been on the increase for the four years the recession has been on.

"During hard economic times, the trend is to return to school and pick up credits."

Courtemanche said that traditionally Canada Employment agencies purchase more seats at colleges during financial downturns.

In 1993, the college accepted 10,496 students in applied arts, business, technology and health sciences.

That number has increased by more than 3,000 students since 1990, almost doubling enrolment in programs except for health sciences.

The general arts and science program expanded by added pre-technology, pre-health and a language option.

The programs are set up to offer

students a chance to improve their marks if they were not sufficient to enter the college programs they would like.

Courtemanche said enrolment in the school of college access and preparatory studies was up from 208 students in September 1990 to 539 three years later.

He said that two business programs were moved from Guelph and Waterloo campuses to Doon in September 1993. Business administration and materials management moved from Guelph and office systems administration moved to Doon from Waterloo.

There were programs that were not recession-proof. Electronics engineering technology broadcast systems has not accepted any first-year students since September 1992.

The school of business added small business management to the curriculum last fall. Dave Hummel, who teaches the program, said it is designed for those who already operate or want to operate a small business.

"The program guides the student through the start-up phases and basic business planning for the idea they bring with them when they enter the course," Hummel said.

The program runs 32 weeks. Twenty-nine people enrolled in the new program in September.

Students pinch pennies to survive recession

By Geoff Hill

Many Conestoga students are coping with the recession by saving and budgeting more carefully, according to a recent on-campus survey.

Ophelia Gorni, a first-year social services student, said she is trying to save more money.

"I try to watch my money. I try to be more careful with it, not constantly going to the bank machine and spending it on frivolous stuff," she said.

She added that she works less than before school started.

Second-year construction students Craig Waller, Trevor Girodat and Rene Dam said the recession has forced them all to cut back.

"I'm doing

less stuff than I used to, going out, what I do on dates, how much I spend on drinking. That's about it, basically."

"I can't get a job. I'm living off my parents," Waller said.

"I'm trying to get a job and I can't get one. I'm watching my money a lot more closely, living within my means, taking back bottles and rolling change."

Girodat said: "I'm staying at the same job instead of trying to switch to one I really want. I'm watching my money, but it doesn't seem to be working. I spend it anyway, but I'm watching it a little more, buying things I really need instead of things I don't."

Some students returned to

school because of the recession.

Jeph Hodsdon, a third-year broadcasting student, said he is getting through the recession with a lot of hard work, sacrifice,

two part-time jobs and the Ontario Student Assistance Program.

"I'm cutting back on a lot of fun. I definitely can't afford to do the weekend party routine anymore."

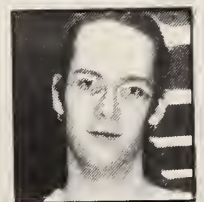
Robert Howard, a first-year electronic engineering student, returned to school because he lost his job. He said he is working so

hard on his studies he does not think about the recession.

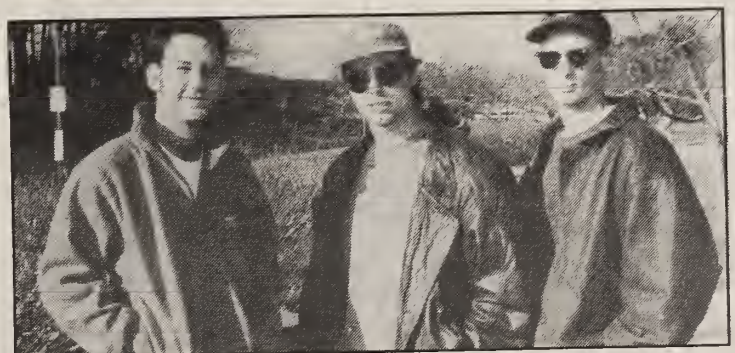
"As a student, I don't really have the time to notice. My wife looks after the financial aspects and I concentrate on school."



Ophelia Gorni



Jeph Hodsdon



L-R: Second-year construction students Craig Waller, Trevor Girodat and Rene Dam.

Life in the 90s: living

Students live in warehouse to save cash

By Geoff Hill

The quest for cheap housing has led some students to live in illegal warehouse apartments in order to weather the recession.

According to Conestoga College student Owen McCullough and University of Waterloo student Al Revesz, warehouse living is a great way to save money.

"There's no way you could find a cheaper apartment, especially considering the amount of space we have here," McCullough said.

At their warehouse in downtown Kitchener, Revesz and McCullough each pay \$225 per month for 126 square metres of space.

Their rent costs will soon be reduced to \$150 per month because they are being joined by a third roommate.

"Having another person living here will be great," Revesz said. "It means living here will get cheaper and cheaper. We pay less rent than most people and we don't even pay utilities."

Jenn Davies, a support staff member at student services, said that students should think about more than cost when choosing a place to live.

"Students should look at what they can afford as well as what they need in a place to live," she said.

Davies said that landlords are

also affected by the recession.

"There has always been room for negotiation in price, but there are more landlords willing to negotiate now," she said.

"Landlords call our office asking what will entice students, what will serve as an incentive."

Student services provides a general housing list with apartments and rooms available for between \$260 and \$350 a month. Rodeway Suites, the new privately built residence near the college, offers a shared room for \$348 a month.

Both Revesz and McCullough say that the need for cheap accommodations led them to live in a warehouse.

McCullough said he has lived in the area for six years and never had a problem finding a place to live until recently.

"Every place is about \$300 a month, plus utilities. I used to not even think about money, but now I really have to watch it."

They said there are negative aspects to warehouse living.

Both their current and former warehouse apartments had no running water.

They said they wanted water so they installed the plumbing themselves.

Another negative aspect is the possibility of eviction because the warehouse is not zoned as a residence dwelling, making it illegal to

live there.

Ken Tribbey, Kitchener enforcement coordinator, said it is possible to evict people over zoning violations.

"Fire, health, building and zoning officials would investigate possible violations if a complaint was filed.

"If a zoning violation is found, there are two options: a zone change to convert the building to residence status, or the eviction of the tenants by the landlord."

John Coish, a fire prevention officer, said that if a warehouse is considered unsafe the building can be closed down and the tenants removed.

"We have the right to enter any building and we have the power to evict people if it is unsafe, if it's a high risk, hazardous area," he said.

Both Revesz and McCullough say they are aware they are breaking the law, but are not concerned.

"If it does come down to being evicted, I'd fight for quite a while. I'd fight back in a way so I could win," Revesz said. "I'd fight to win."

Revesz said that he would find out what changes would be necessary to get the warehouse rezoned in order to avoid eviction.

McCullough's view was different. "I've moved before, I can move again," he said. "I'm starting to get used to this lifestyle. The next cheap move is to live in my van."



Owen McCullough (L) and Al Revesz in a warehouse apartment. (Photo by Geoff Hill)



Greg MacDonald in his room at Rodeway Suites (Photo by Michelle Voll)

Residence living

Some Conestoga students less than satisfied with new Rodeway Suites

By Michelle Voll

Living in residence may not be a financial perk, according to two Conestoga College students.

Lisa Shepherd, a first-year accounting student, and Greg MacDonald, a third-year materials management student, are both moving out of Rodeway Suites after the fall semester.

Financially, MacDonald said that he would be better off living in an apartment.

"I can't justify to myself paying what I'm paying for this."

It costs students \$87 per week to live in residence, which works out to \$1,505 per semester, including activity fees.

Rodeway Suites requires that students pay the full fee at the start of the semester.

On top of the fee is a \$250 security fee which must also be paid

before students move in.

In contrast, the average apartment on the college's housing board rents for about \$300 per month, which is a little cheaper.

Donald Taylor is hoping to be accepted to Conestoga College and is considering residence.

Taylor said the time and money he would save by not needing public transit to the school would be his reason for living in residence.

"I'm not going to make a big saving on the rent," Taylor said.

Although the rent in residence is higher than some apartments nearby, Rodeway Suites compensates with other factors.

Students are not required to pay telephone hook-up charges or cable bills, although there is a \$16 service-charge for cable at the start of the semester.

Utilities are also included in the cost of the rent.

Rather than paying service charges for the telephone, Rodeway Suites charges students \$.05 for every local call made.

Shepherd said she has no problem with the phone rates as it works out to be cheaper for her that way.

Parking rates are also one of the good points, said Shepherd.

Rodeway Suites charges \$46 per semester for a parking pass, as opposed to \$60 per semester at the college.

However, Shepherd and MacDonald do not feel that the perks Rodeway Suites gives them make up for the higher rent.

Both said they knew a lot of people who were at least thinking about moving out after the fall semester.

"Unless they lower the rent, they're going to find themselves without a lot of people next year," MacDonald said.

Conestoga students struggle to live cheaply in the recession

By Esther Chioreanu

Students and staff at Conestoga College's Doon campus say they believe that it is hard to live cheaply these days.

During the recession, students must be more careful with their money.

Brandy Duchesne, a second year broadcasting student, said she doesn't eat very much, probably just a sandwich and a coffee.

"I'm not a healthy eater," she said.

It costs Duchesne \$2.60 a day to go to school and home with Project Lift, a transportation service for physically challenged people.

Marilyn Fischer, the college's nurse, said students should prepare their own food and not buy it. She suggested that people should have a good breakfast.

"It is the most important part of the day to eat in the morning be-

cause the last time people would have eaten would have been the night before, which would be at least nine to 10 hours," she said.

The Conestoga Doon Student Association runs a yearly food bank for needy students experiencing financial difficulties.

Pride is usually the biggest obstacle students have to overcome before using such a facility, organizer Becky Boertien said.

Lee Pinylo, a first-year civil en-

gineering student, said he lives in a townhouse with four other people, and although each have their own car, they occasionally car-pool.

His biggest expense is driving home to Port Stanley on Thursdays, which costs \$20.

Pinylo said he and his roommates share food costs and each of them usually receives food from their parents.

Their entertainment costs are about \$35 for the five of them,

which includes the odd drink once a week.

Darren Donelle, a computer program analyst, said he lives at home with his parents, and occasionally packs a lunch.

Donelle said he sometimes brings between \$4 to \$10, and he always eats at Harvey's.

"I'm a burger-boy, that's me," he said. "Being a good student in school keeps you from spending money."

Life in the 90s: students

Retraining is the way of the future

By Ralph Meier

The first day of an electronics engineering technology course can be pretty intimidating.

Just ask first-year Conestoga College student and former Uniroyal Goodrich employee Brett Hilts.

"The first day of basic electrical theory my instructor starts talking about atoms," said Hilts. "What's an atom?"

The 27-year-old Hilts smiled sheepishly as he moved his 23-month-old son Nicholas away from his knee.

"Nicholas, do you want to watch Barney?" Hilts asked, referring to television's mauve monster. "Here, I'll put in a tape."

Hilts explained that he knew what an atom was, but said he had not been exposed to the theory behind the classroom lesson.

"For the first month, I was pretty overwhelmed," the former factory worker said.

Hilts's college odyssey began after Uniroyal Goodrich closed its "Strange Street" tire plant in December 1992.

"I looked at it as an opportunity to leave," he said. "The job was boring, but it paid so well I would have never left."

According to statistics compiled by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario, Hilts is not the only one being afforded this opportunity. In comparing the 1982 recession with the one in 1991, the survey found that as a percentage of the total unemployed the number of 25- to 40-year-olds rose from 40 per cent in 1981 to 52 per cent in 1991.

Moreover, the number of layoff reports due to plant closures rose from 10,000 in 1981 to a projected 18,000 in 1992. Seagram, Labatt and the old Uniroyal plant are but a few local examples of permanent factory shutdowns.

These facts, coupled with an increase of 25- to 44-year-olds as a percentage of first-year college enrolment from nine per cent in 1982 to 17 per cent in 1990, seem to indicate a trend toward retraining.

Furthermore, a 1992 survey of first year college students, prepared for the colleges of central Ontario, show the number of students 25

years and older has risen from 17 per cent in 1990 to 24 per cent in 1992.

As for the older students' transition from the workforce to college, Joan Magazine, a student services counsellor at Conestoga's Doon campus, said they generally come in with a lot of motivation and put a lot of work into their courses, but they also face a lot of challenges because they are mostly taking care of themselves financially.

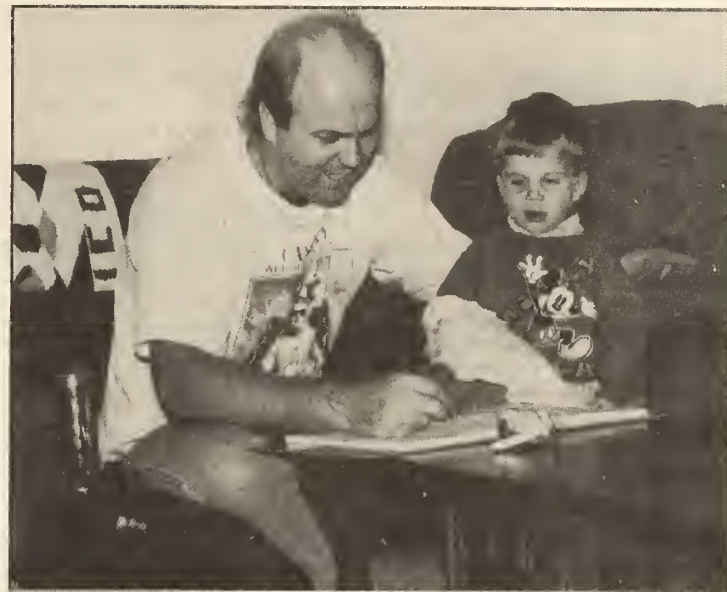
"They have to totally re-adjust their way of life," said Magazine. "They just juggle so many roles and wear so many hats."

Hilts said he thinks school is much harder than work because school involves a lot of homework, unlike factory work, which involves a set schedule.

"My biggest problem is finding the time to get my homework done."

When he gets home from school, Hilts said, he has to look after his two children while his wife goes to work.

"My schedule is pretty hectic and sometimes my wife does not understand how much homework I have



Nicholas Hilts watches his father Brett, a first-year electronics engineering student, do homework.

(Photo by Ralph Meier)

to do. It's all right, though. When I finish school, it's my wife's turn to go back."

"I would like to get into research and development after I graduate," said Hilts, as he placed his six-month-old daughter Taylor in a walker.

Hilts said he could not rule out the possibility of returning to the shop floor one day, but added that

if he did go back, he would like to return in an engineering capacity.

"I have two kids, so you have to do what you have to do."

Two weeks later, Hilts was asked for the definition of an atom.

Reading from his electrical theory text, he replied, "An atom is the smallest part of an element that still retains the characteristics of that element."

Mature students returning to school to become more competitive

By Frank Knobloch

The crippling recession in Ontario has changed the face of students at Conestoga.

Jack Fletcher, chair of student services at the college, said that from September 1991 to September 1992 the average age of students increased by one year.

"That's a lot, considering that figure was taken on an average, in the period of only one year," said Fletcher.

Cutbacks by the provincial government have affected the college's ability to compile statistics on student demographics, said Fletcher.

"We just don't have the people to crunch the figures together."

Despite provincial cutbacks, Conestoga's enrolment rates and second- and third-year retention



Rocan Bradosty, 35, is a engineering student at Conestoga.

(Photo by Frank Knobloch)

rates have gone up over the last couple of years, said Fletcher.

"A lot of people are hanging on because there's nowhere else to go. But I'd like to think that we're keeping them because we're offer-

ing a better product," Fletcher said.

Jo-anne Walters, a 48-year-old student in general arts and science, said there is a more diversified population and the campus structure has changed.

"Classes are overcrowded, which is hard on teachers. We've lost excellent teachers because of the recession," said Walters.

Walters said she has noticed a definite increase in the number of mature students, and most have come back to re-educate so they can be more competitive in the workforce. They bring all sorts of personal problems with them to school, said Walters, such as family and financial troubles.

"Older students can't screw-up. We can't come back six years from now," said Walters.

Kelly Nixon, a counsellor on contract with the college, said she has been seeing more students in their 30s and 40s.

In Ontario colleges, the most recent statistics indicate that students aged 25 years and older made

up 24 per cent of the population in 1992, up from 17 per cent in 1990.

New Canadians continue to add to the diversity of students.

Figures from a report prepared for colleges in central Ontario indicate that 33 per cent of first-year students in 1992 were not born in Canada.

Bob King, a counsellor with student services, said that new Canadians perform well in college.

To help them prepare for classes, King said, the college offers a general arts and science program with an English language option.

Several students interviewed around the Doon campus agreed with the opinion that the recession, coupled with high unemployment, has increased the college's population and has driven large numbers of mature students back to school.



Self-help books

Karen Rhind, a clerk at Coles bookstore in Waterloo Square, displays a few of the many self-help books on the market. The recession has seen the sales of self-help books skyrocket.

(Photo by Michelle Voll)

Enrolment up due to high unemployment

By Don Ross

Unemployment and the impact of a long recession are affecting application numbers at Conestoga College, particularly in the diploma programs, Betty Martin, the college's registrar, said.

Since September 1993, there has been a 37.9 per cent increase in applications to these programs, with the largest growth in the business courses, Martin said.

"Our applications increase is higher than any college in the western region," she said.

As a result, some waiting lists have ballooned to the point where the average diploma program has a 4-1 applicant to available spot

ratio.

Extreme increases exist in the law and security program, which received 1,270 applicants for 150 spots, and the social services program, with 1,148 applicants for 34 spots.

"We used to look at a person's first choice program only. If it was not available we could move on to their second choice," she said. "Now we consider all of their choices at the same time."

A contribution to this increase, which has not been a major factor in the past, is the growth in the mature student category, most of whom are taking business or technical courses, said Martin.

Downsizing and restructuring businesses have forced people

who have lost their jobs, or are displaced workers, back to school for upgrading, said Dale Weibe, a Canada Employment and Immigration counsellor.

"An example of this is at Uniroyal, where some who have been employed for 20 years have been laid off," she said.

Workers can improve their chances of getting and keeping a job by taking college courses to remain competitive in today's highly skilled workforce. Ray Gormley, supervisor of job retraining at the Kitchener Canada Employment Centre, said.

"About 12 per cent of the number of unemployed people currently registered with us are in school for this purpose," he said.

Life in the 90s: finances

Most students ineligible for welfare assistance

By Nicole Downie

Most college and university students are unlikely to be eligible for general welfare assistance, and must rely on the Ontario Student Assistance Plan for help in these harsh times.

Geoff MacGregor, a field supervisor with Waterloo Region's social services department, said students must meet specific regulations, which were modified as of Aug. 1, 1993, before they are eligible to receive welfare.

MacGregor said that in general, post-secondary students are not eligible if:

- they receive OSAP or if they are ineligible for OSAP due to personal income;

- they are one of a two-parent family and one or both adults attend post-secondary education programs;

- they are unemployable and in receipt of OSAP;

- they are dependent adults who receive OSAP as an independent single person.

Post-secondary students are eligible if:

- they are a sole-support parent;

- they require temporary assistance while they wait for a loan from OSAP.

"Students forced to wait for an OSAP loan may get welfare temporarily, but only if they agree to pay it back".

MacGregor said sole-support parents, on the other hand, are eli-

gible for welfare.

"OSAP covers their educational expenses, while social assistance provides personal and living expenses that do not have to be paid back".

They are also eligible for a special child-care bursary through OSAP which does not affect their welfare benefits.

These parents must inform OSAP that they are in receipt of welfare.

Although these may look like tight restrictions, there are exceptions to the rules.

MacGregor said parents in two-parent families who wish to attend courses less than 10 months long, as found in many trade schools, may be eligible for welfare.

"If the caseworker decides the program would improve a parent's chances of finding employment, welfare benefits may be provided for the family".

The student parent would also be allowed to apply to OSAP to cover books and tuition fees.

MacGregor said he usually sees an increase in the number of college and university students applying for welfare in the summer, when they are out of school.

"They are eligible between semesters, when they no longer receive OSAP and they can't find work," he said.

"There are also now more requests from people on assistance to go back to school because there are not enough jobs right now."

High achievers are not the only ones eligible for scholarships and bursaries

By Don Ross

For those students experiencing financial difficulties, getting bursaries may be easier than you think.

Most students think awards are available only to those of superior academic standing who come directly from high school, but there are other factors which are considered, Nancy Thomas, a financial aid counsellor at Conestoga College's registration office said.

A scholarship is an award of money granted to the student based on academic achievement, but need is also considered, said Thomas.

Recipients of scholarships are selected by criteria established by the donor, which can vary, she said.

Awards range from \$50 to \$1,250. As an example, the Canada Scholars in Technology scholarships offers a first-year scholar a payment of \$1,250 through the awards office of the institution, with a maximum of \$7,500 for up to three years, according to information available at the registrar's office.

Betty Martin, Conestoga's registrar, said with the exception of technology programs, each program has its own committee that evaluates scholarships.

"The first step is to go to the program co-ordinator, then fill out a form at the registration office," Thomas said.

"With the Canada Scholars in Technology scholarships, they now have to be on an equal male-to-female ratio" she said.

There are 900 scholarships available through the Canada Scholars in Technology.

Bursaries are awarded on a basis of need only.

They are for students who are unable to continue in school because of lack of finances.

Funds for bursaries are provided through donations from private or corporate sources.

Because of the recession, available aid is more limited than in the past, she said.

The donors to Conestoga include: Bell Canada; the Masonic Foundation of Canada; Hewlett-Packard; Dow Chemical and Petro Canada.

Bursary applications are available in the registrar's office as well as the student services office.

Applications each year must be submitted before the Christmas break, as funds are available only until late February, according to the registrar's office.

Many types of financial assistance available to Conestoga students

By Kerry Masche

Students in need of financial counselling due to a lack of funding through the Ontario Student Assistance Program or other reasons can seek help from student services and the registrar's office.

Bob King, a student services counsellor at Doon campus, said the number of students seeking financial counselling has gone up roughly 50 per cent over the last three years.

Students often seek financial advice from student services and the registrar's office after they have been denied OSAP or if their forms were filled out incorrectly, he said.

Many students receiving OSAP funding this year have been affected by late issuing of the loans, said King.

Some students did not receive their loans until the end of November or December, creating a serious problem for those who needed to buy books and supplies at the beginning of the fall term, he said.

Betty Martin, Conestoga College's registrar, said an alternative method of payment of tuition may be worked out, through a counsellor, according to the student's needs.

The registrar's office is willing to try and work out a method of payment with the student that will fulfil requirements and meet the students financial capabilities for the first semester, said Martin.

Deferrals are often extended to November or December, which usually leaves ample time for OSAP to come in or arrangements to be made such as borrowing from family members or getting a credit card loan, said Martin.

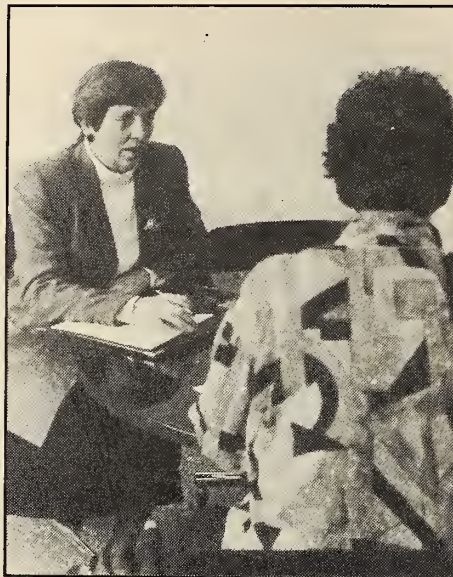
The main reason fees are asked for before school starts is to guarantee that a student will come in September, and because class size is limited, the registrar's office counts the number of students who will be attending classes, she said.

"Until they put that financial commitment down, we are unsure of program capacity."

If a student changes his or her mind about attending the college before Sept. 20, the college will keep a \$50 deposit, she said.

The maximum OSAP students may receive from a Canada student loan is \$105 a week multiplied by the number of weeks in the person's program, but not many people receive that amount, said Martin.

King said that at either during a scheduled ap-



Betty Martin, Conestoga's registrar, talks with a student about financial assistance.

(Photo by Kerry Masche)

dent services will look at all of a student's options and available financial resources.

The key to helping a student, he said, is "finding the right possibility and what might work for them."

Counsellors suggest students obtain loans through a credit card, if they have one, or from family members until their OSAP has come in, said King.

The registrar's office also has limited funds available to lend students for short-term problems, said Martin.

Students who need to buy books or pay rent while they are waiting for their OSAP may receive up to \$500, but this resource usually goes very quickly at the beginning of the year, she said.

OSAP, said Martin, was not designed to cover all of the student's costs and it is always assumed that the student and his or her family will contribute.

She said that students "don't have a clear understanding of the costs of school."

Some students have not done their research well enough in this area and are genuinely surprised by how expensive it is to go to school, she said.

Students may appeal their loan assessments through the registrar's office if they feel they have been assessed unfairly, said Martin.

An appeal may be undertaken if a student's family can't meet the financial contribution expected of them, or a family breakdown appeal may be granted if there has been a history of mental or physical abuse, she said.

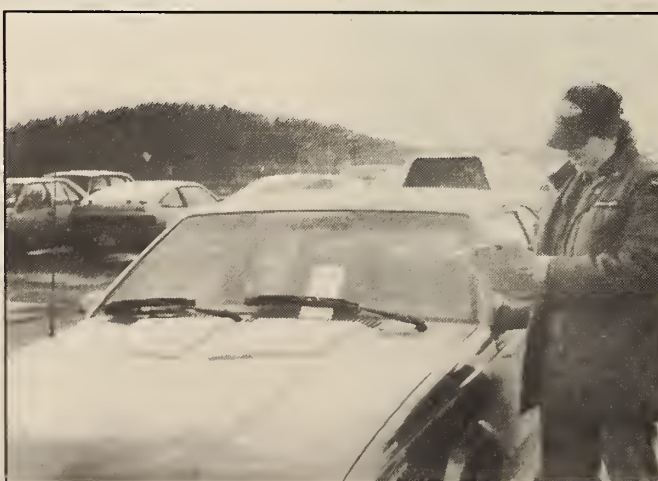
Besides OSAP counselling, student services and the registrar's office offer a variety of other services and advice for students with more personal financial problems.

Budget counselling may be offered to help students gain control over their situation and to help them stretch limited funds over the school year, said King.

Martin offers budget counselling as well and has been speaking to high school students about OSAP, the costs of a good education, and the importance of budgeting savings over the summer as well as during the school year.

Child-care bursaries and special-needs bursaries also are available for those who qualify, said Martin.

Counsellors with student services will refer students to outside agencies and place them on waiting lists according to their needs, King said.



Busted

Security guard Judy Ethridge reports a fraudulent parking decal. Some students are saving money by using forged or old parking tags.

(Photo by Esther Chioreau)

Life in the 90s

Editor: Ralph Meier

Copy Editor: Steve McCutcheon

Production Editors: Winston Endall

Mike Bietz

Proof Readers: Michelle Voll

Alan Horn

Contributors: Kelly Lewis

Kelly Holloway

Frank Knobloch

Michelle Voll

Esther Chioreau

Geoff Hill

Kerry Masche

Nicole Downie

Don Ross

Scott Donnelly

Blake Patterson

Jennie Richardson